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Message Text

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20
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-11 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 SS-20 NSC-07 /127 W
---------- 036192
R 291415Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5231
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, NI
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN MOTIVES ON ILO VOTE

SUMMARY: LABOR PERMSEC EXPLAINS MOTIVES BEHIND NIGERIAN ABSTENTION ON ILO VOTE CONDEMNING SOVIET VIOLATIONS OF ILO CONVENTION ON FORCED LABOR. END SUMMARY

1. FMG LABOR PERMSEC, S. KOKU, REQUESTED MEETING JULY 26 WITH LABATT TO DISCUSS NIGERIA'S ABSTENTION IN VOTE ON ILO COMMITTEE OF EXPERT REPORT COVERING SOVIET VIOLATIONS OF ILO CONVENTION NO. 29 (FORCED LABOR). KOKU NOTED HE IS DISTURBED AT REPORTS THAT SOME MEMBERS OF US DELEGATION TO ILO MEETING FELT NIGERIA'S VOTE WAS RELATED TO GENERAL GOWON'S RECENT STATE VISIT TO USSR. HE WISHED TO EXPLAIN MOTIVES BEHIND HIS ABSTENTION VOTE.

2. KOKU STATED HE BELIEVES IN FAIR PLAY AND JUSTICE, AND FELT SUPPORTERS OF RESOLUTION TO PLACE USSR ON "SPECIAL LIST" REGARDING CONVENTION 29 WERE RUSHING THE SITUATION. HE BELIEVES VOTE SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN TAKEN ON "FIRST MENTION" AS THIS DOES NOT GIVE SOVIET GOVERNMENT OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY SITUATION IN AN EFFORT TO BRING USSR LAWS INTO LINE WITH CONVENTION. ANY GOVERNMENT, HE NOTED, SHOULD BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY RECTIFY
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SITUATION BEFORE BEING PUT ON "SPECIAL LIST".

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3. KOKU BELIEVES REPORT OF EXPERTS IS JUSTIFIED (IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HARD FOR HIM NOT TO BELIEVE THIS SINCE COMMITTEE WAS HEADED BY NOTED NIGERIAN JURIST). HE AGREED SOVIET SYSTEM OF OBLIGATORY ASSIGNMENT OF PEOPLE TO JOBS WITHOUT FREEDOM OF CHOICE WAS CONTRARY TO CONDITIONS. FURTHER, HE AGREED THAT USE BY SOVIETS OF DISCHARGE CERTIFICATES TO LEAVE JOBS WAS DENIAL OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. HE LIKENED THIS TO SOUTH AFRICAN PASS LAWS WHICH ARE USED TO CONTROL INTERNAL MOVEMENTS OF POPULATION. SUCH LAWS, HE SAID, ARE TO BE DEPLORED AS AGAINST BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. DESPITE HIS ABHORRENCE OF SOVIET LAWS ON THIS MATTER, HE FELT SUBJECT SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN SUCH A FRENETIC ATMOSPHERE.

4. KOKU STATED THAT HIS SPEECHES ON THIS MATTER IN ILO MEETINGS WERE DESIGNED TO SHOW HIS ABHORRENCE OF SOVIET VIOLATIONS WHILE EXPLAINING HIS RELUCTANCE TO CONDEMN SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON FIRST HEARING. HE STATED NIGERIAN LABOR ATTACHE IN GENEVA HAS REPORTED COMMENT BY ONE MEMBER OF SOVIET DELEGATION THAT BASED ON DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER DURING ILO CONFERENCE, SOVIET GOVERNMENT WAS PLANNING LOOK AT ITS LABOR LAWS TO ASCERTAIN NEED FOR ANY AMENDMENTS.

5. COMMENT: KOKU WAS OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN EXPLAINING HIS MOTIVES IN BEST LIGHT. WITHOUT EXPLICITLY SAYING SO, HE GAVE IMPRESSION HE DOES NOT WANT TO JEOPARDIZE HIS GOOD STANDINGS WITH US ON ILO. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY APPROPRIATE

RESPONSE WHICH WE COULD PASS TO KOKU ON THIS SUBJECT.
REINCEXW

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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